

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00130 070809Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 IO-13 SP-02 USIA-15  
AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04  
OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04  
OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 /109 W  
-----070816Z 100652 /16

P R 070715Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6022

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 0130

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TU

SUBJECT: INTEREST OF TURKISH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
IN PURCHASING US COTTON-PICKING MACHINES

1. AGRICULTURE MINISTER KORKUT OZAL TOOK OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDED BY AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON HIM DECEMBER 30  
(EARLIER AND SEPARATELY REPORTED) TO INQUIRE WHETHER USG  
COULD FACILITATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURCHASE BY  
HIS MINISTRY OF 100-150 COMPLETE COTTON-PICKING SYSTEMS FOR JUNE  
DELIVERY TO TURKEY.

2. COTTON IS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT CROP FOR  
TURKEY, MINISTER SAID. IN 1976 IT WAS THE SINGLE BIGGEST  
EXPORT-EARNER FOR THE COUNTRY. OVER 2.1 MILLION ACRES OF  
COTTON WILL BE PLANTED IN TURKEY IN 1977. HARVESTING  
WILL PRESENT PROBLEM. DESPITE HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT  
GENERALLY IN TURKEY, THERE IS INSUFFICIENT LABOR AVAILABLE  
TO PICK COTTON AT HARVEST TIME. PICKERS LAST YEAR HAD TO  
BE PAID HIGH WAGES TO ATTRACT THEM TO COTTON AREAS.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00130 070809Z

3. MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE US COTTON-PICKING  
SYSTEMS IN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT. BASIC DIFFICULTY  
IS NOT PURCHASING MACHINES, BUT, RATHER, INSTRUCTING  
TURKISH FARMERS TO CHANGE SPACING BETWEEN ROWS WHEN THEY  
PLANT COTTON THIS SEASON. US COTTON IS PLANTED IN  
ROWS OVER 90 CENTIMETERS APART WHEREAS DISTANCE BETWEEN  
COTTON ROWS IN TURKEY IS NORMALLY 80 CENTIMETERS. SINCE

US MACHINES APPARENTLY ARE NOT ADJUSTABLE,  
PROGRAM WILL HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED PROMPTLY FOR TEACHING  
FARMERS TO CHANGE PLANTING HABITS.

4. WHILE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE INQUIRIES THROUGH  
NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO  
EXPEDITE PROCESS THROUGH HELP OF USG BECAUSE HE IS  
OPERATING AGAINST TIME. IT WILL TAKE ABOUT A MONTH AND  
A HALF TO SHAPE THE PROJECT. FARMERS WILL BE PLANTING  
IN MARCH AND APRIL. HE WOULD NEED AN ANSWER FROM US  
IN EARLY FEBRUARY ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF MACHINERY IN  
ORDER TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME TO INFORM AND INSTRUCT  
FARMERS PRIOR TO PLANTING. PICKING BEGINS IN AUGUST.  
MACHINES SHOULD BE IN COUNTRY BY JUNE OR JULY.  
(IF US COMPANIES CAN PROVIDE SPECIAL MACHINES WITH 80-  
CENTIMETER DESIGN, AGRICULTURE MINISTER WOULD  
OF COURSE WELCOME THEM.)

5. ALTERNATIVE TO US PICKERS WOULD BE SOVIET MACHINES  
WHICH HAVE 80-CENTIMETER SPACING BETWEEN ROWS. MINISTER  
OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT US COTTON-PICKING SYSTEMS ARE MANY  
YEARS AHEAD OF SOVIET SYSTEMS AND HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO  
INTRODUCE RUSSIAN PICKERS WHICH COULD BECOME A FUTURE  
LIABILITY ON COTTON PRODUCERS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME RECEIVING  
FROM DEPARTMENT TELEGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRICES,  
SPECIFICATIONS, AND TIMING OF DELIVERIES OF SUITABLE  
MODELS OF US COTTON-PICKING EQUIPMENT WHICH AMBASSADOR  
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 00130 070809Z

CAN PASS TO MINISTER OZAL. MINISTER'S  
INTEREST IN EXPERIMENTAL PICKERS COULD OPEN WAY TO  
SUBSTANTIAL US SALES OF PICKING EQUIPMENT.  
MACOMBER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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